

World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Release week Dec. 20, 2009: The Story of Christmas

Standards

- *Current Events*: Students will write a school news report about a holiday event.
- *Social Studies*: Students will research what the "star" might have been.
- *Social Studies*: Students will research the various names and history of Santa.

Activities

1. *Use the News*: Write a news report about a Christmas/holiday event that will occur (or has occurred) at your school, i.e., Christmas play, band concert, gift exchange, etc. Remember to include who, what, where and when.
2. Did an important astronomical/astrological event happen 2,000 years ago that might have been the Star of Bethlehem? Research and summarize the opinions and facts you discover. Here is one Web site with some historical ideas: <http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/star-of-bethlehem.shtml>.
3. Where did the various names for Santa (Santa, Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas, etc.) come from? Research the names (make a list), and then assign one to each student/group to report on.

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for Grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade level.